

*Al Cont.*  
entering said security path is authorized to remove said object.

*A2*  
5. (Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said gate is for interrogating said EAS device, said gate including said reader one of built integrally thereto and in a proximity thereof.

6. (Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said computer contains a database including information regarding said authorized user of said object.

*A3*  
9. (Amended) The system according to claim 7, wherein either said alarm is turned off [and] or an authorized user is allowed free passage through said path, when said authorized person exhibits said smart card to said reader.

*A4*  
15. (Amended) A method for preventing theft of an object, comprising:  
operatively attaching an electronic article surveillance (EAS) device to an object;  
detecting said EAS device as said object traverses a security path;  
operatively coupling a reader to said security path;  
reading, by said reader, a smart card being presented to said reader as said object traverses said security path, said smart card containing an identification profile of an authorized user of said object; and  
attaching a computer to said reader, said computer disabling a security gate if a person entering said security path is authorized to remove said object.

*A5*  
19. (Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein said security gate is for interrogating